

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /046 W

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R 170135Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 2722

USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED DETAILED COVERAGE
"MAYAGUEZ" RECOVERY OPERATION WITH ACCOMPANYING
EDITORIALS STRESSING IMPORTANCE U.S. SHOW OF STRENGTH
"THE ONLY LANGUAGE COMMUNISTS UNDERSTAND." END SUMMARY.

2. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) SAID
SHIP WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN RECOVERED WITHOUT MARINE
OPERATION. WAS MILITARY ACTION, NOT FORD'S STATEMENTS
OR KISSINGER'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WHICH SAVED U.S.
REPUTATION. SUCH INCIDENTS REPEATABLE UNLESS HANDLED
BY FORCE. PAPER CITED NIXON'S 1972 CHINA VISIT AS
ROOT ALL THESE TROUBLES AND SUGGESTED KISSINGER, NOT
HABIB, VISIT U.S. ASIAN ALLIES.

3. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000) WAS
HAPPY "MAYAGUEZ" DIDN'T BECOME ANOTHER HUMILIATING
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"PUEBLO" WITH RELEASE DEPENDENT ON DETENTE CONCESSIONS.

PAPER BELIEVED U.S. MILITARY ACTION STOPPED CONTEMPLATED
COMMUNIST MILITARY VENTURES AND BOOSTED MORALE SOUTHEAST
ASIAN ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THAILAND, PHILIPPINES.

4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS SAID "THE UNITED STATES
HAD TO STOP ACTING LIKE A PAPER TIGER SOME TIME, AND
THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO BETTER MOMENT THAN THIS...
PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE HEART
FROM THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE REACTION OF THE CONGRESS
TO SOMETHING STRONGER THAN RETREAT AND APPEASEMENT.
POSSIBLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE AT LAST HAD ENOUGH
OF BEING PUSHED AROUND BY FOURTH-CLASS STATES, BRIGANDS
AND COMMUNISTS. THAT WOULD BE THE BEST NEWS TO REACH
THE FREE WORLD IN A LONG TIME."
CLARKE

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NNN

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